Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

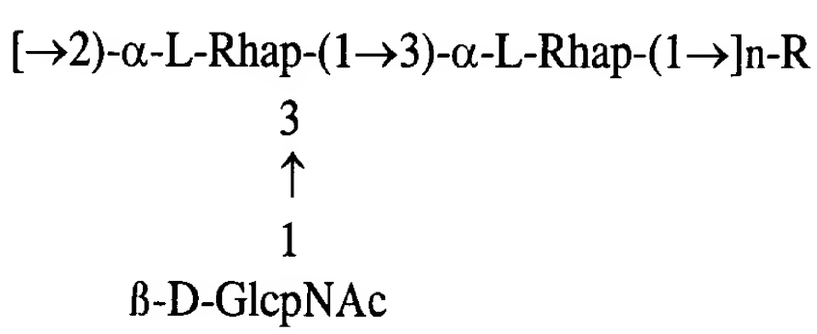
Cancel claims 73-79 without prejudice as they have been withdrawn from consideration.

Listing of Claims:

1-72. (Cancelled)

73-79. (Withdrawn)

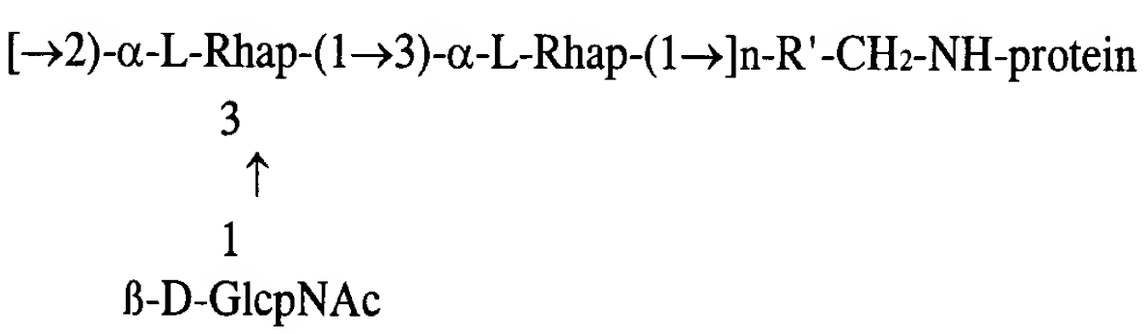
73. (Withdrawn) An immunogenic polysaccharide-protein conjugate molecule comprising a group A polysaccharide of formula (I)



(I)

wherein R is a terminal reducing L-rhamnose or D-GlcpNAc and n is a number from about 3 to about 30, and wherein the polysaccharide is covalently linked to protein.

74. (Withdrawn) The immunogenic polysaccharide-protein conjugate according to claim 73 wherein the polysaccharide is linked to protein through a secondary amine bond to form a conjugate of formula (II)



(II)

wherein R' is the product of reduction and oxidation of the terminal reducing sugar which is not represented in the -CH_2-NH-protein secondary amine bond of formula II.

75. (Withdrawn) The immunogenic polysaccharide-protein conjugate according to claim 73 wherein the protein is any native or recombinant bacterial protein.

76. (Withdrawn) The immunogenic polysaccharide protein conjugate according to claim 75 wherein the protein is selected from the group consisting of tetanus toxoid, cholera toxin, diphtheria toxoid and CRM_{197}.

77. (Withdrawn) The immunogenic polysaccharide-protein conjugate according to claim 76 wherein the protein is tetanus toxoid.

78. (Withdrawn) The immunogenic polysaccharide-protein conjugate according to claim 73 wherein the polysaccharide has a molecular weight of about 10 kd.

79. (Withdrawn) The immunogenic polysaccharide-protein conjugate according to claim 74 wherein the protein of the conjugate comprises a T-cell epitope and is at least of a length of about 10 amino acids.

80. (Previously Amended) A method of eliciting protective antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal a polysaccharide-protein conjugate or polysaccharide-protein fragment conjugate wherein the polysaccharide component of said conjugates is of formula (I)

$$[\rightarrow 2)\text{-}\alpha\text{-L-Rhap-}(1\rightarrow 3)\text{-}\alpha\text{-L-Rhap-}(1\rightarrow]_n\text{-R}$$
$$\begin{array}{c}3\\ \uparrow \\ 1\end{array}$$
$$\text{ß-D-GlcpNAc} \qquad (I)$$

wherein R is a terminal reducing L-rhamnose or D-GlcpNAc and n is a number from 3 to 50, and wherein said polysaccharide component is covalently bound to the protein component or protein fragment component of said conjugates.

81. (Previously Amended) The method of eliciting protective antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 80, wherein the mammal is a human.

82. (Cancelled)

83. (Previously Amended) The method of eliciting protective antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 80, wherein n is 3 to 30.

84. (Currently Amended) The method of eliciting protective antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 81, wherein the polysaccharide component has a molecular weight of about 10 ~~Kd~~kilodaltons.

85. (Previously Amended) The method of eliciting protective antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 81, wherein the protein component is bound to the polysaccharide component through a secondary amine bond.

86. (Previously Amended) The method of eliciting protective antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 85, wherein the protein component is ~~any~~ native or recombinant bacterial protein.

87. (Previously Amended) The method of eliciting protective antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 86, wherein the protein component is selected from the group consisting of tetanus toxoid, cholera toxin, diphtheria toxoid, and CRM_{197}.

88. (Previously Amended) The method of eliciting protective antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 87, wherein the protein component is tetanus toxoid.

89. (Previously Amended) The method of eliciting protective antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 81, wherein the conjugates are administered with a carrier selected from the group consisting of saline, Ringer's solution and phosphate buffered saline.

90. (Previously Amended) The method of eliciting protective antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 81, wherein the conjugates are administered with an adjuvant.

91. (Previously Amended) The method of eliciting protective antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 90, wherein the adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of aluminum hydroxide, aluminum phosphate, monophosphoryl lipid A, QS21 and stearyl tyrosine.

92. (Previously Amended) The method of eliciting protective antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 81, wherein the human is a child.

93. (Previously Amended) The method of eliciting protective antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 81, wherein the conjugates are administered in a dosage amount of about 0.1 μg to about 10 μg per kilogram of body weight.